

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 18 and add new claims 21-23.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding ribonuclease L (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding ribonuclease L protein and inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L.

Claim 2 (original) The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

Claim 5 (original) The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

Claim 6 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

Claim 7 (original) The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 8 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

Claim 9 (original) The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

Claim 10 (original) The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 11 (previously presented) A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of a preferred target region on a nucleic acid molecule encoding ribonuclease L (SEQ ID NO:3).

Claim 12 (original) A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 13 (original) The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 14 (original) The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 15 (original) A method of inhibiting the expression of ribonuclease L in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of ribonuclease L protein is inhibited.

Claims 16 (original) A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with ribonuclease L comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of ribonuclease L is inhibited.

Claim 17 (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition results from an infection.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition [disorder] arises from aberrant apoptosis.

Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is cancer.

Claim 20 (original) A method of modulating the process of RNA-mediated interference (RNAi) in a cell or animal comprising administering to said cell or animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of ribonuclease L is inhibited.

Claim 21 (new) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L at least 60%.

Claim 22 (new) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L by 80% or more.

Claim 23 (new) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of ribonuclease L by 90% or more.